

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An assembly of word models produced from a word model producer is sent to a matching object word selector to select one word model as matching object from them. A word matching processor judges whether or not a score of a path root of a present state
5 serving as matching object is within a predetermined range being set based on a maximum value of the score, which is memorized in a maximum value memory buffer connected to the word matching processor. When the score of the path root is with in the above-described range, the score of this path root is designated as count object and a cumulative score is obtained. On the other hand, when the score of the path root is outside
10 the above-described range, calculation of score for the state of the matching object is omitted.